

Summary of Current *Recreational* Fish Regulations in Delaware for 2006

Species	Recreational Minimum Size Limit	Recreational Season	Recreational Creel Limit per Angler
American Eel	6"	Open Year Round	50
Bass, Black Sea	12"	Year Round	25
Bass, Largemouth	12"	Open Year Round	6
Derby Pond	None between 15"-18"	Open Year Round	6, no more than 1>18"
Hearns Pond	None between 15"-18"	Open Year Round	6, no more than 1>18"
Andrews Lake	None between 12"-15"	Open Year Round	6, no more than 1>15"
Becks Pond	15"	Open Year Round	2
Bass, Smallmouth	None between & including 12" & 17"	Open Year Round	6, no more than 1>17"
Bass, Striped	(Non Tidal) 15" (Tidal) 28"	Open Year Round**	2 by hook and line only
Blue Crabs	5" Hard; 3.5 Soft; 3" Peeler	Open Year Round	1 Bushel
Bluefish	None	Open Year Round	10
Clams, Hard	1.5" Wide	Open Year Round@	500 w/permit; 100 – resident; 50 - non-resident
Croaker, Atlantic	8"	Open Year Round	None
Drum, Black	None	Open Year Round	None
Drum, Red	20-27", none > 27"	Open Year Round	5
Flounder, Summer	17" (effective May 10, 2006)	Open Year Round	4
Flounder, Winter	12"	Open Feb. 11 – April 10	10
Horseshoe Crabs	NONE MAY BE TAKEN	NONE MAY BE TAKEN	NONE MAY BE TAKEN
Hybrid Striped Bass	15" Non-tidal	Open Year Round	2- non-tidal; no limit in tidal water
Lobster	3 3/8" Carapace length***, female maximum length 5 1/2"	Open Year Round	none; 2 per diver
Mackerel, Spanish	14"	Open Year Round	10
Panfish*	None	Open Year Round	50; but no more than 25 per species
River herring (blueback & alewife)	None	Open Year Round	25 combined species
Shad (Hickory and American)	None	Open Year Round, Closed Nanticoke River & its tributaries	10 combined species
Shark	54" fork length; except no limit for dogfish species	Open Year Round	1 per vessel per day; 1 per person per day from shoreline or pier; no limit for dogfish species
Spot	None	Open Year Round	None
Spotted Seatrout	12"	Open Year Round	None
Sturgeon, Atlantic	-	CLOSED	-
Tautog	14"(15" April, May, June)	Closed Sept. 1-28	10 (3 in April, May, June)
Trout (Freshwater)	None	Opens Apr. 1 (closed two weeks prior to opening day)	6 (4 in restricted streams ##); 6 in ponds
Weakfish (Sea Trout)	13"	Open Year Round	8
White Perch #	8" (Tidal water)	Open Year Round	None in tidal water, 25 in fresh water
Scup	8"	Open Year Round	50

* Panfish include bluegill, redear, pumpkinseed, black crappie, white crappie, white perch and yellow perch.

** Striped bass recreational season closed on spawning grounds (Nanticoke River, C & D Canal, and Delaware River and their respective tributaries north of the southern most jetty of the C & D Canal) during April and May catch & release only. Non-offset circle hooks required on spawning grounds. Striped bass **are not** permitted to be retained if taken with a recreational gill net at any time.

*** Carapace length measured from rear of eye socket to posterior edge of body shell.

Only applicable in tidal waters.

Restricted streams meaning those designated as flyfishing only (White Clay Creek from a point 25 yards above Thompsons Bridge to the Pennsylvania state line).

@ See Map in 2006 Fishing Guide.

All recreational gill nets must be out of the water in the Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Ocean during the periods in 2006 on May 1-7, 12-14, 19-21, 26-29, June 2-4, 9-11, 16-18, and 23-30. No gill nets may be fished between Cape Henlopen Point and the northern boundary of Beach Plum Island Nature Preserve at any time between May 1 and November 30 and no gill nets may be fished between the northern boundary of Beach Plum Island Nature Preserve and the Murderkill River at any time between May 1 and June 30. Other restrictions apply to recreational gill nets. For more information, request a copy of the latest compilation of information on recreational gill nets available from the Fisheries Section, Division of Fish & Wildlife, 89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE 19901, (302)739-9914 or (302)739-9916.

[THIS TABLE IS ONLY A SUMMARY, DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS AND STATE LAWS PREVAIL]

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